

Boston, 5th December, 1846.

My dear Miss Carpenter,

I have ^{been} writing such a long & gossiping letter to Mr. Estlin, that I have scarcely time to reply at all to your kind letter of Octo. 16th received by Mr. Garrison. I was very glad to receive it, and to learn of the unabated interest you feel in our affairs - an interest you manifest, not by words alone, pleasant & cheering as these are, but by noble and almost numberless deeds. Yesterday's "Liberator", which I send to you by this opportunity, contains two little paragraphs from Bristol papers, speaking of the exhibition of Antislavery articles for the Boston Antislavery Fair at a house in St. George Street, which no doubt is your mother's. It did not require a very strong effort of imagination for me to enter again your hospitable door, and walk through the hall and into your father's cheerful and beautiful library, and see the tables, &c. strewn with the rich and various donations to the Antislavery cause. That you find time to do so much, amidst your many household avocations, and your multiplied charitable labours for the ignorant, the suffering, and the young about you, may well demand our admiration, and incite us to greater efforts. I hope you will find pleasure ^(as that is not the word exactly) in reading a Sermon by Rev. Mr. Parker, (which I send to you) on the "Perishing Classes in Boston"; for, alas!, he makes it but too clear that we have such, physically, morally, & spiritually, diseased and perishing, in our very midst.

You inquire if the American edition of the "Meditations" has yet come out. I wonder at that you should ask;— nor, if you should think it strange that you have not heard something on the subject during the last 4 or 6 months. I ~~am~~ have not been pleased, or quite satisfied, with the course which Mr. Crosby, who undertook to publish it, has pursued. I expected he would commence its publication, immediately on receiving the parcel you sent; he gave me to understand that he should; but in the summer, he intimated to me that he should prefer delaying the work till the Spring, when he should have fewer jobs on hand, and when (more especially) he hoped to have the complete sheets of your 2^d English edition to print from. He asked me if I would not consent to this — for he seemed desirous to meet his ^{virtual} engagement, if I insisted upon it;— but I did not feel that I had a right to insist upon his proceeding to publish, as he had undertaken the work on his own sole responsibility. I told him so, yet said that I should much prefer to have no delay about it. — The work, therefore, stands still. I should like to hear from you ~~what~~ ^{the} present state of the publication of your 2^d Edⁿ. is, and whether it is probable that Crosby can have ^{resembling} the the sheets of it, say by the 1st of April;— if not, I shall urge him to go forward at once. He speaks confidently of his purpose to get it out in the Spring. I think he means to do so. It is not, to be sure, surprising that, ~~he should~~ knowing as he does that a 2^d Eng. edⁿ. is in course of preparation, he should desire to see that, and make his own book from ~~that~~ it.

I thank you for the Lines, "Voices", &c., which you sent me,

and read them with great pleasure. I met M^{rs}. Follen a few days ago, and inquired if she had seen them. She said she had, and had talked with Mrs. Chapman about having them published in this year's "Liberty Bell", - without your name, of course.

I dare say you hear frequently from Mr. Waterson. His new Church is slowly advancing towards completion; though that end will not be attained, probably, in less than another year. I think it will have the most beautiful interior of any Church in the City. It is Gothic, of the old English style, - the material is a reddish sand-stone, and has already a very handsome appearance.

I have no personal acquaintance with Dr. John Ware; he is very much esteemed in Boston as a man, and as a physician. But it is very clear to my mind, from his memoir of his brother, that he has shared largely in the little and, to a greater extent than many imagine, the unfounded prejudices against the Abolitionists. I do solemnly believe & say that the Abolitionists are by no means so amenable to the common charges of violence & harshness in the use of language as the multitude suppose. This depends wholly on the point of view - the "stand-point" - from which the Abolitionists and their writings are looked at. Men who feel little or nothing about Slavery, who care not ~~for it~~ whether it exists or ceases, will of course think the commonest & most obvious truths spoken about it to be fanatical & insane. Understand what Slavery is, what influences and what men uphold it, or speak its apologies, what its effects are on the civil institutions, the morals, the religion of the Country - understand these, and feel them, in an honest, human heart, - and you must, or rather persons constituted as ~~the~~

Men generally are must speak strongly & warmly, & earnestly.
I think it no impropriety to recur to Christ's example in this matter.
I know, to be sure, that "he knew what was in man" more
perfectly than any of us. Yet God has given also to us some
means & opportunities of knowing what is ~~in~~ in men; and
when we do know this, we must speak according to the
knowledge & light which are in us, or be moral recreants
and cowards - despising ourselves, and powerless for good.
We know (so far as we can know anything) that we do know
something about ~~in~~ this subject of Slavery. We see it, not in the
Slave States, but around us everywhere; it is on the exchange
of Boston, in the countinghouses of its ^{wealthiest} merchants, and at least
lawyers & politicians, and from these ramifies through every part
of Society. It stands up by the professed ministers of Christ, in his
pulpit, and by its stem, threatening mien, seals up his lips on this
great, glaring, hideous sin of our country - yes, emphatically
of our country; for the Constitution is eaten up with it, the laws
and decisions of the Courts are all steeped in it, and the
administration of the Government has always been in the exactest
and most humble compliance with its demands. The Churches
are its main "Bulwarks"; — and when we see and feel all
these things, you can imagine, I'm sure, that our spirits are
stirred within us, seeing the land, & the avowed Church of Jesus X^c,
wholly given to this idolatry. If, in ~~so~~ such a state of things,
Dr. John Ware, or any body else, can feel satisfied to stand back,
and find fault with the Abolitionists (who have never half told the
awful nature of Slavery) and dole out his advice — why, he must do
it, and meet the consequences. — But I am writing too much.

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 3, p. 20

You say you trust that I still "reckon you among
my friends in the old country." I trust that you have
never doubted this. You have often said to me that my
letters to Bristol were ^{apt to be} ~~often~~ read by others of my friends besides him
or her to whom addressed; and so I have ^{when I have been writing,} felt that I might be
communicating with you all. I confess too that the unsatisfactory
state, in which the re-printing of your book stood, indisposed me
to write ^{directly to you} - and I waited in hope of something better to communi-
cate. But I think you will not complain that you have
not such letters, long drawn out, to read often from me - such,
more particularly, as that I have written to Mr. Estlin
by this ~~present~~ opportunity.

And now I must, perforce, close; with
Sincere Respects to your Mother, to your Sisters and
to your brother when you may see them. -

I am, Most truly, Your friend

And Servant,

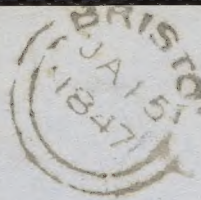
Samuel May.

To

Miss Carpenter.

Great George Street.

Bristol.



Rev. S. May - Dec. 1846



Taken out of a ship letter addressed
to Miss Wright of Liverpool charged
£2.4.0 & returned Dec Jan 7 1847

To J. J. Carpenter.

Great George Street.

Bristol.
England.

